

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A lane changing assistant for motor vehicles which controls an automatic change of the vehicle to a neighboring lane (14) in response to a command by the driver as part of a lane keeping system (22, 24, 26, 28) of the vehicle (10) and which has an operating element (34) that is movable in opposite directions out of a neutral position, wherein a sensor (60, 62) is allocated to the operating element (34) for each direction of adjustment, this sensor supplying a multi-valued output signal (L, R) which corresponds to the actuation of the operating element and determines the dynamics of the lane changing procedure.
2. The lane changing assistant as recited in Claim 1, wherein the operating element (34) has a lever (42) and the sensor (60, 62) is designed to measure the force with which the lever (42) is pressed against a stop (52, 54) or a pressure point (48, 50).
3. The lane changing assistant as recited in Claim 2, wherein the lever (42) also forms a turn signal switch of the motor vehicle.
4. The lane changing assistant as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the sensor (60, 62) is designed to measure the actuation of the operating element (34) with time resolution and to supply a time-resolved signal as a multi-valued output signal that determines the intensity of the intervention into the steering of the vehicle (10).
5. The lane changing assistant as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein it is integrated into a regulating device (26) which regulates the transverse position of the vehicle (10) at a setpoint value ($\Delta Y_{\text{setpoint}}$), and the lane changing assistant (32) is designed to alter the setpoint value as a response to the output signal (L, R) of one of the sensors (60, 62).
6. The lane changing assistant as recited in Claim 5, wherein it is designed to analyze the signals (L, R) of the sensors (60, 62) only during the initial phase of the lane changing procedure and then to transfer the control to the regulating device (26).